(a) whether the Standing Advisory Committee of Experts (SACE) have submitted their recommendations in regard to jute packing of cement;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof; and

(c) the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Standing Advisory Committee has recently submitted its recommendations to the Ministry of Textiles regarding packaging not only of cement but foodgrains, sugar and urea also in jute packaging material. Its recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Production in the heavy industries sector

965. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the total production in the heavy industries sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of heavy industries in the total exports of the country;

(d) the average number of persons employed in the said industries during the last three years alongwith the details of capital invested therein by the end of March, 1996; and

(e) the number of said industrial units functioning at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) As per the Annual Survey of Industries, 1993-94, the total number of industrial units with an investment in Plant & Machinery of Rs. 5 crores and above were 15750. The total value of production of these units was Rs. 261212 crores. Total capital invested in these units was Rs. 261084 crores. These industries employed 3.688 million persons.

Based on the current industrial growth rates the total production of these units in 1995-96 at constant 1993-94 prices is estimated to be around Rs. 320 thousand crores. The total invested capital in these industries is estimated to be around Rs. 400 thousand crores. The total number of persons employed in these industries is estimated to have increased to 3.73 millions in 1995-96.

While the share of Heavy Industries in total export is not separately available the non SSI sector as a whole have a share of about 60% in total manufacturing export.

Problems faced by cement industry

966. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minsiter of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a RBI study has analysed that the cement production in 1996-97 is to be affected adversely by the increase in oil prices;

(b) the major problems being faced by the cement industry; and

(c) how Government intend to meet them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No such study has been conducted by RBI. However, while discussing in general about the cement industry in their "Report on Currency and Finance, 1995-96 Vol. I", RBI has mentioned that "given the high transport intensity of the cement industry, the cement production in 1996-97 is likely to be affected adversely by increase in oil prices."

(b) The major problems faced by cement industry are inadequate availability of good quality coal from indigenous sources, high cost of transportation and difficulty in timely movement of raw matrials as well as finished product and acute power shortage particularly in major cement producing States like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

(c) The Government has taken many initiative for sorting out the problems of cement industry. Some of these are:—

(i) Launching of Own Your Wagons (OYW) Scheme by the Ministry of Railways for augmenting the availability of wagons for the cement industry;

(ii) Initiatives for setting up of Central Coal Washeries for improving the quality of coal for the cement industry;

(iii) Allowing the Cement industry to operate its own mines to ensure a steady supply of coal; and